



Advent 3

December 15, 2024
St. John's Church

Welcome

We are so happy you are with us.

All you need to worship with us is in this bulletin. Please greet the person near you, stand and sit as you are comfortable, and bring your voice and heart to the service.

We say the words printed **in bold** together.

Advent Time

When apocalyptic writing shows up in the readings on Sunday, you know it's time to pay attention. Not to prepare for the end of time, as this genre is so frequently misunderstood to demand, but to expect the revelation of God in our time. God's control of time. God's directing of time toward all that is perfect and true.

Advent asks us not to treat this time, this four weeks, differently, but to live in time differently *altogether*.

Advent is a reminder that our time is not our own. We like to pretend that it is, that we can manage it efficiently, plan accordingly. That by our sheer determination we can bend it to our needs and desires.

The charge to keep awake during this Advent season is not just about waiting and anticipation. It is not just about getting ready or being ready.

Ultimately, God's entering into time disrupts time, displaces time, disorients time. Not always comfortably. Not always helpfully. Not always desirably. And never how or when we expect. But yet, there God is. In the flesh, in the moment, in the days.

This, beloved, is the meaning of waiting, watching, and Advent time.

O, Look

There is a special little group of prayers called the O Antiphons, because they all begin with "O." They go back 1,300 years and are scripturally based prayers focusing on the titles given to Christ in scripture. Originally, they were chanted in monasteries during the last days before Christmas. You already know these antiphons in a different form. The famous carol "O come, O come, Emmanuel" is based on the O Antiphons.

Although typically prayed in the evening towards the end of Advent, we are using them as a part of our Sunday morning worship. They add to our sense of anticipation and keep our focus on the coming of Jesus Christ, and all the ways he is named.

Ministers

Altar Guild	Barb Roberts
Sound	Steve Nickles
Hospitality Greeter	Megan Nickles
Liturgy Greeter	Doug Ramier
Musicians	Tom & Kathy Walker Kasandra Fell
Worship Leader	Tim Glatzer
Readers	Mark Smith Jim McEvoy
Preacher	Jessica Smith
Intercessor	Diana Anderson
Presider	Susan McEvoy
Communion Servers	Mary Dillivan Kim Dillivan
Communion Bread	Susan McEvoy
Coffee Hour	TAC-Amy Brooks

Prayers

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Tanzania

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Diocesan Standing Committee, Diocesan Staff;
Katharine Jefferts Schori, Assisting Bishop;
Holy Nativity, Kinnear

Paul & Gaylene, Cece & Frida;
Chris & Terri; Tim & Alex;
Andre & Syd; Don, Deb & Donna;
Bob & Charlotte; Kenny & Michael;
Richard & Jennifer; Carolyn & Family;
Lee & Kelly; Hunter, Charlotte & Mike;
Hugh B. & Marge; Margie & Josey;
Tim & Lynnae; Bobbi & Bentley

Mary Ellen, Laurel, Braxton, Gail,
Joey, Patty, Don J., Cynthia W.,
Mary, Katy, Tuti Rosita, Marlynn,
Douglas, Mickey, Mike G., Carra,
Rob R., Kathy E., Tammy, Bobby B.,
Cynthia G., Larry, Irene, Nancy, Sue,
Kahli, Ron and Jane.
Bennett, Daryn, Justin, Jacob,
Patrick, Reece, Coleman, and Bryce
who are serving in the military.

Celebrations

Birthday: Debora Smith—17th, Carly Asay—21st

Prelude

“Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,” Salisbury Cathedral Choir.

Hymn

1 Lift up your heads, O might - y gates: be - hold, the
2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart: make it a
3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to
4 So come, my Sov - ereign, en - ter in! Let new and

King of glo - ry waits! The King of kings is
tem - ple set a - part from earth - ly use for
you: here, Lord, a - bide! Let me your in - ner
no - bler life be - gin! Your Ho - ly Spir - it

draw - ing near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.
heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
pres - ence feel: your grace and love in me re - veal.
guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

WORDS: George Weissel (1590-1635); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878); para. Psalm 24:7-10
MUSIC: Thomas Williams' *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789

TRURO
L.M.

O Antiphons

O Wisdom coming towards us on the breath of God,
seeping into every crack and corner of the world with strength and gentleness
to order everything just right: Come now and show us the way to health and wholeness.
Lord draw near.

Draw near and save.

O Adonai Shepherd of God's people,
you made yourself known to Moses in a burning bush,
and let him in on life's best secrets on that very same mountain:
Come now, take us into your confidence as well. Lord draw near.

Draw near and save.

O Root of Jesse, budding from a dead branch as a sign of hope for everyone,
the leaders of the world will stand in amazement at you,
and all their people as well:
Come quickly to deliver us from the decay of our politics. Lord draw near.

Draw near and save.

O Key of David, true Pastor of all God's people,
you open doors that no-one can close,
and close doors that no-one can open:
Come now to set the prisoners free,
all those who live in darkness and despair. Lord draw near.

Draw near and save.

O Radiant Dawn, glory and beauty of God's own face,
eternal Sun of justice and peace:
Come now to shine for everyone
who lives in the shadow of death. Lord draw near.

Draw near and save.

O Shepherd of all the world, desire of every heart and nation,
you are the heartbeat of our fragile humanity:
Come now to save us,
we whom you formed from the dust of the earth.
Lord draw near.

Draw near and save.

O Immanuel, rightful ruler and giver of the secrets of life,
desire of every heart and savior of the world: Come now to make us your children,
for you are our God, the Lord of all. Lord draw near.

Draw near and save.

Prayer of the Day

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of flood and fire, calling us to turn from dead halls echoing with greed:
may the gift of your spirit come to us from another place, burning with life and hope
that will not be quenched; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. Amen.

Scripture

After the reading

Word of God, word of return.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia

We stand. The Cantor sings through once, then we sing together.



Music: *Do This in Memory of Me*, David Hans, © 2003, GIA Publications, Inc.

Scripture

We sit.

After the reading

Word of God, word of return.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Prayers

Be strong and let your heart take courage,
all you who wait for the Lord. –*Psalm 31:24*

We pray for the needs of all the earth saying,
Healer of the world: **lead us to wholeness,
and make us shine with your light of healing love.**

The intercessor continues, concluding with

Holy One, whose coming we await,
you invite us into the light of your presence:
illumine the dim places of our hearts.

We are thirsty for your compassion.

Draw near to us and fill us,

that we may pour out your goodness to all who hunger.

Jesus, your light calls us forth to follow and serve you.

Your light still shines for all to see in this world.

May we continue to reflect your light in our lives,
in our service, in our words and in our deeds.

Amen.

Peace

May the peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

We greet one another in the name of God.

Offertory

Gracious and generous God, we give of ourselves as you offer yourself:
to feed the hungry, care for the poor, lift up the broken-hearted,
and bring comfort to those in need.

Music

“A Voice Cries Out,” Michael Joncas.

Great Thanksgiving

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to our God.

Let us give thanks to the Holy One.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Surely it is you, holy God, who saves us, for you are our stronghold and our sure defense, and you shall be our savior forever. From bondage and then from exile you brought your people home; you gave Zion a song, filled Jerusalem with joy, and renewed your children in praise. When your creation was captive to sin, you sent your son to restore your people: upon the cross he bore the sin of the world, and through his resurrection you have become our salvation.

In your love and by your spirit, you have opened the wells of salvation to flow through all the earth with the water of rejoicing. And so we give you thanks with the saints of every age and exalt you in the company of heaven as we join their unending hymn.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord, God of
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na
in the high - est. Bless - ed is
he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

On the night before he died, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying

“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them, and said,

“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you
and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the
remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is ris - en.
Christ will come, Christ will come a - gain.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The first staff contains the melody for the words "Christ has died. Christ is ris - en." The second staff contains the melody for "Christ will come, Christ will come a - gain." The notes are simple, with some slurs and ties.

Text: ICEL, © 1973
Music: *Do This in Memory of Me*, David Haas, © 2003, GIA Publications, Inc.

Gathering God, as grain is collected from the fields, in your son you draw us to yourself; and as that grain is drawn together in this holy meal you make us one. Send your Holy Spirit upon your church to make us your harvest of righteousness. Sanctify this bread and cup that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ our Lord;

Holy one of Israel, you are the great one in our midst. Come and dwell among those who long to know you amid toil and strife. Where your loved ones have been exiled by judgments against them, remove every fear from their hearts and give them hope. Where your sons and daughters face the threat of enemies, show them how best to love their persecutors. Where oppression has turned your children into outcasts, gather them in your arms and carry them home.

Bring us to that day when shame turns to praise and all creation resounds with rejoicing in your midst, holy one, eternal Trinity, creator, son, and holy spirit. Amen

A - men, A - men, Al - le - lu - ia!
A - men, A - men!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The first staff contains the melody for "A - men, A - men, Al - le - lu - ia!". The second staff contains the melody for "A - men, A - men!". The notes are simple, with some slurs and ties.

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The Lord's Prayer

We pray as Christ taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

**Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.**

Amen.

Fraction

The Leader breaks the bread. Silence is kept.

We eat this bread to remember and to hope.

**Fill us and all who hunger with good things
and remember with your loving kindness
all who watch for the coming light.**

God's gifts for God's people.

The Communion

Please come to the table, whether you are single, married or divorced, drinking, using or sober, abled, disabled, or ill, gay, straight, or discovering, wealthy, getting by or in debt. Christ meets us all.

We approach the altar beginning with those sitting in the last rows; they shall be first.

Approach the rail from the left aisle and take a cup; used cups go on the tray on the right.

You may receive only bread or only wine, or both. Our Eucharistic bread is handmade and robust. If you prefer a wafer, please tell your server.

Receiving bread and wine is a central act of worship in the Episcopal Church.

Music

"Take My Life and Let it Be," Frances R. Havergal.

"Humble Hands," Tom Walker.

Thanksgiving

We stand.

Let us pray.

Eternal God,

we thank you that in Christ

you give yourself into our hands:

may we who have tasted life

proclaim the coming feast

when many will come from east and west, from north and south

to greet the creator of all. Amen.

Hymn



1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, Born to set thy peo - ple free!
2. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth thou art;
3. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child, and yet a king;
4. By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



1. From our fears and sins re - lease us, Let us find our rest in thee.
2. Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
3. Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
4. By thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: 87 87; Charles Wesley, 1707–1788.

Music: Christian F. Witt's *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715; adapt. by Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876.

Sending

May the God who brings heaven close to earth

give truth to our judgement and flame to our longing,

that our hearts might be ready to be born again in love.

Go now, rejoicing in a weary world.

We go to love and serve. Alleluia!

Postlude

“Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending,” Roger Wilcock & The London Fox Players.

Sources

O **Antiphons** are adapted by Gary J. Deverell, deverell.org.

Prayer of the Day, **Prayer of Thanksgiving**, and **Sending** are from *Prayers for an Inclusive Church*, Steven Shakespeare ©2009, Church Publishing, New York.

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